Cecilia A. Massetti, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

8.5

BOARD OF EDUCATION ACTION ITEM

April 10, 2018

Topic:
Consideration Approval of Madera County Independent Academy Charter Renewal Revisions

Background:
The Board of Education previously approved the Madera County Independent Academy Charter Renewal on March 13, 2018. However, after a discussion with the California Department of Education (CDE), it was determined that the start date should be May 8, 2018. Attached are the revisions.

Financial Impact:
No impact

Resource:
James Sargent
Chief Career Technical and
Alternative Education Services Officer

Recommendation:
Approval of Madera County Independent Academy charter renewal revisions for a five-year period to expire June 30, 2023.

1105 South Madera Avenue • Madera, CA 93637 • (559) 673-6051 • FAX (559) 673-5569 www.maderacoe.k12.ca.us

MADERA COUNTY
INDEPENDENT ACADEMY CHARTER RENEWAL PETITION

For a renewal term of May 8, 2018 – June 30, 2023 Charter

Renewal Petition Submitted March 13, 2018

Madera County
Superintendent of Schools

WASC: MCIA has received accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and College. MCIA is currently completing a mid-cycle (3-year) review in March 2018 and will complete the next full review in 2021.

Charter Renewal

Based on these findings, the Madera Independent Study Academy has met the charter renewal standards of Education Code Section 47607(b) to be granted a five-year charter renewal term pursuant to Charter Renewal Standards of Education Code Section 47607(a)(1) and 47607(b) and the California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 11966.5(b)(1).

In accordance with California Charter School Law, Madera County Independent Academy petitions the Madera County Superintendent of Schools and the Madera County Board of Education to grant renewal of its K-12 charter for a five-year period from May 8, 2018 until June 30, 2023, and eligible for subsequent renewals.

II. Educational Philosophy and Program

Charter School's Goals

The goal of the Madera County Independent Academy is for all students to be self-motivated, competent, life-long learners, to improve the employability of youth by high school completion, and to encourage post-secondary education. The MCIA staff has worked to make MCIA a place where this goal can be reached.

Target Population – Whom the School is Attempting to Educate

While open to all students, the target population for MCIA continues to be educationally disadvantaged students of grade kindergarten through grade twelve. These students typically have not performed well on other school campuses.

Students are referred to MCIA from surrounding districts for a variety of reasons including but not limited to: behind on credits, need to work full-time, not expected to graduate with class, not functioning well on more traditional campus, and seeking a non-traditional school setting.

MCIA has some students who are court ordered and others that are attending MCIA for their own safety. While this growth is positive, it has resulted in a large number of students who come to MCIA as seniors, yet are a year or more behind in credits. Throughout the 2016-17 school year, 203 seniors were enrolled. Of those seniors, 101 were a year or more behind in credits. These seniors made up 49.7% of our students in the 2016-2017 school year.

Based on the data in the School Accountability Report Card for 2016-17, the MCIA served the following students:

- 379 students were enrolled during the year.

Charter School is able to obtain substantially rent free facilities from the County.

VII. Term of Charter Renewal Petition

Madera County Independent Academy's renewal charter shall begin on May 8, 2018 and expire five years thereafter on June 30, 2023. Any material revisions to Charter School's charter shall be made by the mutual agreement of the governing board of the Charter School and the County in accordance with Education Code Section 47607. MCIA may present a petition to renew or materially revise the Charter; the County agrees to respond to such petitions pursuant to the process, criteria and timelines specified in Education Code Section 47605 and applicable provisions of the California Code of Regulations.

VIII. Conclusion

By approving this charter renewal, the County is fulfilling the intent of the Charter Schools Act of 1992 to improve pupil learning; create new professional opportunities for teachers; and provide parents and pupils with expanded choices in education and following the directive of law to encourage the creation of charter schools.